

# PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND WIRELESS NETWORK

## First Responder Network Authority

### “FirstNet”

#### North Carolina Team

North Carolina Department of Public Safety  
Office of State CIO

North Carolina Department of Commerce  
Criminal Justice Information Network

911 Board  
State Interoperability Executive Committee  
City of Charlotte

# Overview

- Background
- Objective
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- Funding
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## FirstNet Background

- Public Law 112-96 passed by Congress in 2012, establishes an “independent authority within NTIA” (National Telecommunications and Information Administration – within US Department of Commerce) with responsibility for building and operating a Nationwide Public Safety Wireless Broadband System
- FirstNet is broader than just DHS or DOJ; Commerce has the lead in order to support all FirstNet responders
- FirstNet is headed by a 15 member Board
  - Secretary of Homeland Security, US Attorney General, and Director of Office of Management and Budget are only legislated members
  - 12 members are appointed by Secretary of Commerce
  - Members are geopolitically diverse with expertise in Public Safety, Technology, Commercial Networks, and Finance

## Objective of FirstNet (1)

- Nationwide Wireless Broadband Network for Public Safety for federal, state, local and tribal emergency response personnel to share data, do their jobs more efficiently and save more lives in the process
- “Emergency Response” now extends data communications to other than traditional Police, Fire, and EMS personnel – these non-traditional responders include:
  - Emergency Management
  - Critical Infrastructure
    - Utilities (power, gas, telecom, water, sewer)
    - Transportation (Road, Rail, Air, and Maritime)
  - Public Health and Non-governmental organizations
  - Education (shelter, transportation, fuel, feeding)
  - National Guard and Federal Agencies/Departments

## Objective of FirstNet (2)

- FirstNet will not be a brand new system - it will use existing state, local and commercial infrastructure where available
- FirstNet is a PARTNERSHIP with commercial carriers and their active participation is critical to the success of FirstNet
- FirstNet will use Fourth Generation (4G) cellular data technology - Long Term Evolution (LTE - adopted by all commercial carriers)
- Here in North Carolina, VIPER and FirstNet infrastructures will be able to support each other by using some common tower sites, generators and common links between tower sites
- VIPER is all voice based while FirstNet is currently data based
- Voice and data will eventually converge allowing for a single user device to handle both voice and data exchange

# Timeline

Dates & Times	Project Activities
February 2012	Legislation creating FirstNet signed
June 2012	FirstNet gathers initial requirements from Public Safety
August 2012	Secretary of Commerce appoints 12 non-permanent FirstNet Board Members
February 2013	NTIA/FirstNet established a State Grant Program (SLIGP \$120 million to support FirstNet planning nationwide)
March 2013	State submitted SLIGP Grant Proposal
July 2013	Commerce plans to award first phase Grant funds - education, outreach, and planning
Approximately December 2014	FirstNet Awards second phase Grant funds - requirements and data gathering
Approximately June 2016	FirstNet Planning Grant Completed

## Funding (1)

- FirstNet is intended to be “Deficit Neutral” (built with proceeds from Spectrum Auctions, from partners, and sustained by user fees)
- FirstNet Board has recognized that FirstNet user fees must be cost competitive with commercial carriers prices to achieve success
- Allocation of \$120 million for initial phase of the program  
North Carolina will receive \$3.2 million
  - calculation based on following formula
  - 50 states and 6 territories each get \$500k
  - remaining funds allocated based on 75% by population and 25% by geographic size.
  - State required to provide 20% match (in-kind acceptable)
  - \$3.2 million + \$800k (match) = \$4 million

## Funding (2)

- State FirstNet Wireless Broadband expert group developed a two year budget to support North Carolina's FirstNet effort
- State has already identified approximately \$980k for in-kind match
- The Department of Public Safety will work to close the gap of an additional \$350k per year through in-kind match or by identifying cash sources



## Summary

- The North Carolina Governor, the Secretary of Public Safety and the State CIO have all endorsed the FirstNet effort and placed responsibility in the Department of Public Safety
- Have created strong team - first responders, local government, Public Safety agencies, and Charlotte
- Continue to develop recommendations to ensure NC Citizens, Local Governments, Businesses, and Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians are all supported
- Partner with utilities, telecommunication companies, and critical infrastructure providers
- Continue to work with the FirstNet Board and their Advisory Boards

## Optimism for Success - Charlotte

- At National Level – FirstNet and NTIA have stated their recognition that FirstNet will be built on smaller successes
  - North Carolina is fortunate to have an extremely successful model – Charlotte is one of seven nationwide pilot projects
- Charlotte was on track to “go live” for DNC – efforts were suspended by NTIA to ensure full alignment with FirstNet
  - Charlotte ready to “go live” in early 2014
  - Unequaled learning opportunity
  - Years of knowledge and experience
  - Must be a part of FirstNet in NC in any case
- NC is in a leadership position – with Charlotte partnership



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